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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,592	01/13/2006	Klaus Biester	1600-13300 DAR	1800
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CONLEY ROSE, P.C. 600 TRAVIS SUITE 7100 HOUSTON, TX 77002				
EXAMINER				
FRISTOE JR, JOHN K				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3753				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/04/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/564,592

Applicant(s)

BIESTER, KLAUS

Examiner

JOHN K. FRISTOE JR

Art Unit

3753

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 16 and 22-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6-15 and 17-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/26/2007
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 4/26/2007 is acknowledged by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). In the present instance, claims 1-25 recites the broad recitation feed device, and the claim also recites "in particular for the dosage feed of an additive fluid" which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation.

A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). In the present instance, claim 22 recites the broad recitation a reduction gear, and the claim also recites "in particular in the form of a so called harmonic drive" which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3, 5, 16, and 25 as far as they are definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,967,164 (Denda et al.). Denda et al. disclose a dosage feed device comprising a dosing element (1, 4, 12), an adjustment device (10), a dosing gap (14a), a valve device (5), an opening area of the dosing gap (14) is variable (area between

elements 4 and 12 is variable), a dosing cone (4), a counter element (12), wherein the dosing cone (4) moves relative to the counter element (12), the dosing gap (14) is ring shaped Around element 4), a certain opening area (14a), and a number of insertion bevels (surface of element 9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 22 and 23 as far as they are definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,967,164 (Denda et al.) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,497,672 (Appleford et al.). Denda et al. disclose a dosage feed device comprising a dosing element (1, 4, 12), an adjustment device (10), a dosing gap (14a), a valve device (5), an opening area of the dosing gap (14) is variable (area between elements 4 and 12 is variable), a dosing cone (4), a counter element (12), wherein the dosing cone (4) moves relative to the counter element (12), the dosing gap (14) is ring shaped Around element 4), a certain opening area (14a), and a number of insertion bevels (surface of element 9) but lacks the adjustment device comprising a gear mechanism. Appleford et al. teach an actuator comprising a spindle drive (4), a reduction gear (10), a helically toothed spur gear (9), and a drive motor (8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the dosage feed device Denda et al. by having a geared actuator as taught by Appleford et al. in order to change the speed of the motor and further control the speed of the valve during movement.

8. Claim 24 as far as it is definite, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,967,164 (Denda et al.) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,497,672 (Appleford et al.) as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,159,658 (Parkinson). Denda et al. modified above, disclose a dosage feed device comprising a dosing element (1, 4, 12), an adjustment device (10), a dosing gap (14a), a valve device (5), an opening area of the dosing gap (14) is variable (area between elements 4 and 12 is variable), a dosing cone (4), a counter element (12), wherein the dosing cone (4) moves relative to the counter element (12), the dosing gap (14) is ring shaped Around element 4), a certain opening area (14a), and a number of insertion bevels (surface of element 9) but lacks a code carrier of a position sensor assigned to the threaded spindle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the dosage feed device of Denda et al. by adding a position sensor to the actuator as taught by Parkinson in order to determine the position of the actuator during movement.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 4, 6-15, and 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,515,674 (Kaufmann, Jr.) discloses a valve with a dosage gap.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,634,095 (Taylor) discloses a valve with a dosage gap.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John K. Fristoe Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-4926. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7: 00 a.m-4: 30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/John K. Fristoe Jr./
John K. Fristoe Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753

JKF